



STATE OF CONNECTICUT – COUNTY OF TOLLAND
INCORPORATED 1786

TOWN OF ELLINGTON

ROBERT J. CLEMENTS
Chairman

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DOUGLAS B. HARDING
MARK A. JOYSE
BARRY C. PINTO
JOHN P. RACHEK
MICHAEL D. VARNEY

Board of Finance

Budget Deliberations
April 21, 2015
Minutes

Board of Finance

Members Present: Robert Clements, Chairman, Douglas Harding, Mark Joyse,
Barry Pinto, John Rachek, Michael Varney

Others Present: Nicholas J. DiCorleto, Jr., Finance Officer/Treasurer, Maurice
Blanchette, First Selectman; Ronald Stomberg, John Turner, Lori
Spielman, James Prichard, Selectmen; Tim Webb, Public Works
Director/WPCA Administrator; Al Lawrence, Fire Marshal; Stephen
Cullinan, Superintendent of Schools; Dr. Scott Nicol, Incumbent
Superintendent of Schools; Sgt. Patrick Sweeney, Resident State
Troopers' Office Supervisor; Gary T. Feldman, Sr., Chief, EVFD;
Don Davis, Emergency Management Director; Representatives of
the Crystal Lake Fire Department; Lauren Quirici, Journal Inquirer
Reporter

Chairman Robert Clements opened the deliberations at 7:35 p.m.

Budget Deliberations:

Mr. Clements stated that the cuts suggested at the April 16, 2015 meeting represent a 7/10 mill reduction from 2.9 to 2.2. He stated that he met with Mr. DiCorleto to try to identify other areas in the budget that could be trimmed.

Mr. Clements stated that he attended the Board of Selectmen (BOS) meeting last night and strongly suggested that they consider sending the budget to Town Meeting and not propose language to send the budget to a referendum. He felt that such language discourages residents from attending the Town Meeting. By sending the budget to vote at Town Meeting he hopes to get more residents out to participate and give the BOF the opportunity to explain why the increase is higher this year. Mr. Clements reported that the BOS did vote to send the budget to vote at the Town Meeting and he anticipates that the residents will request the budget be sent to referendum for a vote.

Mr. Clements distributed a flyer that the Town of Tolland has mailed informing their residents of the budget highlights. He asked the members if they were in favor of preparing a similar mailing. Mr. Joyse thought it was a good idea but cautioned that the text should be just the facts and no opinions.

Mr. Clements contacted Sgt. Sweeney and Steve Cullinan regarding the impact of eliminating one of the School Resources Officers (SROs). This would result in a \$40,000 reduction in the Police budget and a \$40,000 reduction in the BOE budget and it will help reduce overtime for the SROs.

Mr. DiCorleto stated that the reductions recommended at the April 16, 2015 meeting totaled \$699,646. He noted further reductions that could be made to the following accounts: Assessor's mapping, the Pre-emption service, broadband connection and the GIS. He also noted increases in revenue from the Building Department, FEMA reimbursement and taxes, which will bring the mill rate increase down to 2.2 mill.

Mr. Clements stated that he met with the Building Official regarding his request for a new file storage system. He reviewed the current filing system in Town Hall and the Town Hall Annex and reviewed the proposal to update it. Mr. Clements was in favor of keeping this \$24,000 expenditure in the budget as it will reduce the staff time required to retrieve files from the Town Hall vault and free up space in the vault.

Mr. Clements stated that he would like to send the budget to Town Meeting with the suggested cuts and asked the BOF members for their input.

Mr. Joyse stated that their focus is what residents can afford.

Mr. Varney stated that cuts are difficult as the proposed BOE budget is 64% contractual expenses for payroll and insurance and this needs to be pointed out to the residents.

Mr. Rachek stated that next year's budget will not be much better and it doesn't make sense to put off the projects.

Mr. Harding was in favor of sending the budget to Town Meeting as proposed and to get the feedback from the residents.

Mr. Pinto agreed adding he would like to get some direction from the residents on where to make the cuts.

The meeting recessed at 8:10 p.m.; reconvened at 8:13 p.m.

Mr. Clements stated that Lori Spielman reminded him that this budget includes \$609,000 for trash collection. He asked the BOF members to consider taking this out of the budget and to continue sending out the individual \$125 trash collection fee bills. He noted that at the Public Hearing on April 14 some residents volunteered to call those who are delinquent in their trash collection bill payments in an effort to recoup some of this money. By consensus, the BOF will remove the trash collection fee from the proposed budget.

The meeting recessed at 8:19 p.m.; reconvened at 9:20 p.m.

MOVED (HARDING), SECONDED (VARNEY) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE REVENUE INCREASES LISTED BELOW TOTALING \$94,498 AND TO APPROVE THE OPERATING EXPENSE DEDUCTIONS LISTED BELOW TOTALING \$1,322,256.

REVENUE INCREASES (REDUCTIONS)

FY 15-16	Increase Tax Collection Rate from 98.00% to 98.25 %	
FY 14-15	Current Year Levy	18,000
FY 14-15	Building Department	12,000
FY 14-15	FEMA-January Blizzard	<u>64,498</u>

TOTAL REVENUE INCREASES: 94,498

OPERATING EXPENSE (REDUCTIONS) /ADDITION

Account	Sub	Account Name	
131	6269	Tax Assessor-Mapping	(2,500)
310	6345	Center Fire Dept-Medical Supplies	(8,000)
330	5111	Police-reduction of one SRO	(40,000)
377	6250	Preemption Service Townwide	(1,640)
451	6250	Mun-Solid/Bulky Waste Curb	(609,000)
810	6240	Town Hall-reduction internet	(4,216)
850	6241	Pinney House-electricity	(1,000)
1080	6250	Town Web Site	(13,000)
1090	6250	GIS	(5,000)
1100		Capital Outlay	(312,000)
1200		Board of Education	<u>(325,900)</u>

TOTAL EXPENSE REDUCTIONS (1,322,256)

MOVED (JOYSE) SECONDED (VARNEY) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY THAT THE SUM OF MONEY RECOMMENDED FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015-16 IS \$53,958,936; ALL EDUCATION COST SHARING (ECS) GRANTS ARE DEEMED TO BE APPROPRIATED TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION; AND TO RECOMMEND TO THE ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT:	\$	14,233,977
REDEMPTION OF DEBT:	\$	3,184,322
CONTINGENCY FUND:	\$	200,000
BOARD OF EDUCATION;	\$	35,050,900
CAPITAL NON-RECURRING FUND	\$	<u>1,289,737</u>
	\$	53,958,936

AND FURTHER TO RECOMMEND TO A TOWN MEETING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$1,289,737 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015-16 FOR THE CAPITAL NON-RECURRING FUND, SAID APPROPRIATION TO FUND THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS:

1100 CAPITAL NON-RECURRING FUND

	2015-16 BUDGET REQUEST	ADDS (REDUCT)	FINANCE RECOMMEND
Project Requests			
Unimproved Road Improvement	\$ 20,000	(20,000)	-
Local Capital Improvement Program	\$107,785	-	107,785
Road Overlay	\$500,000	-	500,000
DPW-Snow Plow Dumptrucks Replmt	\$180,000	-	180,000
DPW-Mower Replacements	\$ 20,000	-	20,000
DPW-Garage Renovation	\$ 60,000	(60,000)	-
Pool Car/Town Staff Vehicle	\$ 30,000	(30,000)	-
Animal Control Vehicle	\$ 32,000	-	32,000
Municipal Broadband Connections	\$ 67,500	(32,000)	35,500
Building Department File Storage	\$ 24,000	-	24,000
HML-Upgrades to the Restrooms	\$ 98,000	(98,000)	-
Parking Lot Renovations	\$ 40,000	-	40,000
Crystal Lake Beach	\$ 20,000	(20,000)	-
Field Irrigation	\$ 25,000	-	25,000
EVAC-Replmnt Ambulance	\$210,000	-	210,000
BOE-EMS Phone System	\$ 48,268	-	48,268
BOE-EHS Exterior Auditorium Wall Repair	\$ 18,670	-	18,670
BOE-Windermere Air Conditioning Cafeteria	\$ 52,000	(52,000)	-
BOE-Replmt Vans-Special Ed	\$ 48,514	-	48,514
DEPARTMENT TOTAL	\$1,601,737	(312,000)	1,289,737

LESS-FEDERAL/STATE/TRUST FUNDS

State Grant-LOCIP	\$ 105,415		105,415
OPM-Nutmeg Network Broadband Fiber	\$ -	-	
DPW Maintenance Fund	\$ -	-	
Ambulance Fee Program	\$ 210,000		210,000
TOTAL	\$ 315,415	-	315,415

NET COST TO TOWN	\$1,286,322	(312,000)	974,322
CAP NON REC FUND			

Board of Education Grants:

MOVED (JOYSE) SECONDED (VARNEY) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ACCEPT BOARD OF EDUCATION GRANTS AS APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AT THEIR MARCH 25, 2015 MEETING IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$1,788,321. (SEE ATTACHED SHEET)

Adjournment:

MOVED (VARNEY), SECONDED (HARDING) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE BOARD OF FINANCE MEETING AT 9:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted:

Marie Sauve
Substitute Recording Secretary

Exhibit A**2015-2016 Prepaid Grants**

<u>GRANT</u>	<u>ESTIMATE</u>
Title I - Part A: Improving Basic Programs Funds are targeted to improve achievement in reading and mathematics with grant entitlements based on family income indicators.	\$ 85,000
Title II: Part A: Teacher and Principal Training and Recruiting Supports increased student achievement by improving teacher and administrator quality and increasing the number of highly qualified teachers.	\$ 51,500
Title III: Part A: English Language Acquisitions Funds are used to support programs and services for English Language Learners.	\$ 8,500
IDEA - Part B: Section 611 Special Education Entitlement Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Designed to provide funds for the education of disabled children.	\$ 404,188
IDEA - Part B: Section 619 A Preschool Entitlement Designed to provide funds for the education of disabled children ages three to five.	\$ 11,042
Adult Education Matching state funds that help fulfill Ellington's legal obligations related to Adult Basic Education, the High School Adult Credit Diploma Program, the External Diploma Program, and GED Preparation Classes through the Vernon Regional Adult Ed. Program.	\$ 14,293
Perkins- Career & Technology Grant Funds are used to purchase equipment and support for career and technology programs.	\$ 25,000
Open Choice Funds Funds are used to offset magnet school tuition payments required by Parent Choice legislation.	\$ 280,000

Open Choice Special Education Funds	\$ 216,048
Funds are used to offset special education costs of Choice students.	
School Readiness	\$ 140,000
Funding for children from income-eligible families to participate in NAEYC accredited preschool programs. Families pay on a sliding scale based on their income. Grant also provides for the School Readiness Council to offer parent education programs to assist with the development of skills that prepare students to be successful in school.	
Sheff Settlement – Open Choice Academic and Social Support	\$ 150,000
Funds facilitate the development of programs and activities to support the success of students in the Choice Program.	
Summer Programs	\$ 30,000
Fees paid by parents to allow their children to attend self-funded summer programs.	
Preschool Tuition Funds	\$ 87,750
Fees paid by parents of “typical peer students” attending the district’s special education reverse mainstream preschool program.	
Academic Enhancement	\$ 35,000
Fees paid by families for extended day/year programs.	
Other federal and state prepaid grants which might be applied for.	\$ 250,000
TOTAL	\$1,788,321